

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 SSO-00 NSCE-00

INRE-00 USIE-00 DRC-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 IO-14 /121 W

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3504

INFO SECDEF PRIORITY

CNO PRIORITY

USCINCEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSNAVEUR PRIORITY

CINCUSAFE PRIORITY

COMFAIRMED PRIORITY

COMFAIRMEDREP PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 3143

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, GR US

SUBJECT: NEGOTIATIONS ON SOUDA AB AGREEMENT

1. OUR NEGOTIATING TEAM MET WITH FONOFF AND HAF C
NEGOTIATORS ON MAY 22 AND MAY 24 IN FIRST DETAILED
NEGOTIATIONS ON SOUDA AB AGREEMENT SINCE LAST USN/HAF
NEGOTIATING SESSION, ON JANUARY 7, ALTHOUGH GREEK
NEGOTIATORS SHOWED CONSTRUCTIVE SPIRIT, AND SOME PROGRESS
MADE ON OPERATIONAL/TECHNICAL QUESTIONS, IT WAS CLEAR THAT
GREEKS WERE NOT READY TO ACCEDE TO OUR VIEW OF THE SANCTITY
OF THE NATO SOFA, NOR WERE THEY READY TO ACCEPT OUR CONTENTION
THAT EXISTING BILATERAL AGREEMENTS COULD BE ADDRESSED ONLY IN
BROADEST FRAME OF REFERENCE AND NOT IN CONTEXT
OF SOUDA AB. NEXT NEGOTIATING SESSION NOT YET FIXED
PENDING US SIDE CHECKING SEVERAL OPERATIONAL/TECHNICAL
QUESTIONS AND IN ORDER TO GIVE GREEK SIDE OPPORTUNITY TO
CONSULT. US NEGOTIATORS FELT LATTER MIGHT INCLUDE REVIEW
OF GREEK POSITION ON NATO SOFA AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS
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FOLLOWING GOG ASSESSMENT THAT US POSITION INDEED FIRM.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER TETENES INDICATED DURING A MEETING WITH ME MAY 27 THAT HE ANTICIPATED FINAL AGREEMENT ON SOUDA AB FACILITIES COULD BE REACHED QUICKLY. HE EXPRESSED CONCERN REGARDING POSSIBLE US USE OF SOUDA AB FACILITIES IN NON-NATO OPERATIONS. I REPLIED THAT I SAW NO PROBLEM IN THIS REGARD SINCE USG FULLY RECOGNIZED GREEK SOVEREIGN RIGHTS AND ANY NON-NATO OPERATION OF SIGNIFICANCE WOULD CERTAINLY BE SUBJECT TO MUTUAL AGREEMENT AS, IN FACT, IT HAD BEEN IN THE PAST. I SUGGESTED WE SIMPLY NOTE THAT SUCH OPERATIONS WOULD FALL UNDER THE TERMS OF AGREEMENTS IN EFFECT AND PAST PRACTICES. HE SEEMED RECEPTIVE.

3. I THEN EXPRESSED MY CONCERN ABOUT THE QUESTION OF JURISDICTION INVOLVING OUR MILITARY PERSONNEL ON DUTY (SEE ART. 3 PARA 5 OF GOG DRAFT AGREEMENT ON SOUDA AB), AND POINTED OUT THAT THE GREEK POSITION WAS CONTRARY TO THE PRACTICE IN ANY OTHER NATO COUNTRY. I NOTED, MOREOVER, THAT WITH MARTIAL LAW IN FORCE THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, WE COULD BECOME INVOLVED IN A DELICATE POLITICAL SITUATION HARMFUL TO OUR BILATERAL INTERESTS. HE SAID THAT HE UNDERSTOOD AND ADDED THAT THE GREEK MILITARY HAD INFORMED HIM OF THEIR ACCEPTANCE OF OUR POSITION ON THIS ISSUE, AS SET FORTH BY THE DCM IN THE NEGOTIATING SESSIONS. I HAVE THE IMPRESSION THAT ON THIS ISSUE, AT LEAST, OUR DIFFERENCES MAY HAVE BEEN RESOLVED.

4. THIS PART OF THE CONVERSATION CLOSED UPON MY NOTE THAT IT WAS TIME THIS AGREEMENT WAS CONCLUDED BECAUSE I DID NOT BELIEVE PRACTICAL MATTERS OF SUBSTANCE REMAINED BETWEEN US. HE AGREED.
TASCA

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